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**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 11, and 14 are pending.

Claims 1, 2, 11, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,351,553 to Hayosh.

Applicant would like to point out that the rejection of claims 1, 2, 11, and 14 of the present application is improper for at least the following reasons.

With specific regard to claim 2, Applicant notes from the Office Action that the Office seems to suggest that a MICR (or barcode) comprises "...encoded information including apriori reference image quality data which is representative of at least one image quality characteristic associated with the at least one symbol which is other than a MICR codeline..." (as recited in claim 2 of the present application).

In this regard, Applicant would like to respectfully point out that while the content of a MICR line may be considered to be encoded, a MICR line does not include any apriori reference image quality data which is representative of at least one image quality characteristic associated with a symbol which is other than a MICR codeline. Applicant would like to direct the Office to column 1, line 66 to column 2, line 40 of Hayosh which describes content of a MICR line. Nowhere does Hayosh disclose or suggest that the MICR line includes any apriori reference image quality data which is representative of at least one image quality characteristic associated with the at least one symbol (as recited in claim 2 of the present application).

If the Office continues to reject claim 2 of the present application by applying Hayosh, it is respectfully requested that the Office specifically point out where Hayosh discloses the following:

- (i) a first area portion of sheet material on which a symbol is pre-printed;
- (ii) a second area portion (which is different from the first area portion) of the

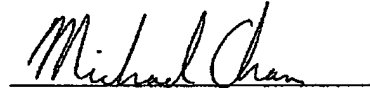
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- sheet material on which encoded information including apriori reference image quality data which is representative of at least one image quality characteristic associated with the symbol is stored; and
- (iii) a MICR line which includes apriori reference image quality data which is representative of at least one image quality characteristic associated with the symbol.

Absent an adequate explanation, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 2 of the present application is improper and, therefore, should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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